



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 8 July 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The U.S. National Hurricane Center forecasts Hurricane Bertha should remain out of the oil-rich Gulf of Mexico for at least the next five days as it approaches Bermuda. (See item [1](#))
- The Barnwell, South Carolina, disposal facility closed its doors to Pennsylvania and 36 other states on July 1. The closure means waste producers will have to hold onto that waste until a new site is found. That process will take years. (See item [7](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *July 7, Reuters* – (South) **Bertha to remain out of Gulf of Mexico this week.** Hurricane Bertha should remain out of the oil-rich Gulf of Mexico for at least the next five days as it approaches Bermuda, meteorologists forecast Monday. The center of Bertha, which formed Monday morning, was located about 845 miles east of the northern Leeward Islands, the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) said in an advisory. The NHC forecast Bertha would strengthen some over the next couple of days, but expects the storm to remain a Category 1 hurricane over the next five days with winds of 74-95 mph. Energy traders watch for storms that could enter the Gulf of Mexico and threaten U.S. oil and gas production facilities.

Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/burningIssues/idUKN0739701820080707>

2. *July 7, FinancialWire* – (California) **California wildfires threaten SCE power lines.** Wildfires near Santa Barbara, California, were threatening 220 kilovolt transmission lines owned by utility Southern California Edison (SCE) after 10,000 customers lost power in the area. SCE de-energized the 220-kilovolt line near Goleta last week due to smoke and ash near the lines, said a spokesperson for the Cal ISO, which operates the state power grid for utilities. SCE is asking that if the line does go out again that customers who continue to have power conserve because the ability to serve is often diminished with fewer lines. California firefighters are battling many blazes including the Gap fire and one nearby the Big Sur area in northern California as record heat continued in the area.
Source: <http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/1737560/>
3. *July 3, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **3 burned by steam in Louisiana refinery accident.** Louisiana authorities say three people are being treated for burns after a steam accident at a ConocoPhillips Co. refinery. A Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office spokesperson said one was in critical condition. A refinery spokesman said the three employees were contractors conducting routine maintenance on a steam line, adding that operations were not affected at the facility in Jesuit Bend. He said the cause of the accident would be investigated.
Source: <http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/index.ssf?/base/business-83/121512717536070.xml&storylist=business>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *July 7, Reuters* – (Georgia) **Southern Ga. Hatch 1 reactor starts to exit outage.** Southern Co.'s Unit 1 at the Hatch nuclear power station started to exit an outage and ramped up to three percent power by early Monday, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in a report. The unit automatically shut from full power on July 4 due to a turbine trip.
Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN0739319320080707>
5. *July 7, Reuters* – (Arkansas) **Entergy Arkansas 2 reactor back at full power.** Entergy Corp.'s Unit 2 at the Arkansas Nuclear One power station returned to full power by early Monday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit was operating at 62 percent of capacity early Thursday after the company reduced it to fix a tube leak associated with the feed water heater.

Source:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUKN0739256820080707>

6. *July 6, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Feds to investigate Livermore Lab's handling of toxic metal beryllium.** Five incidents involving Livermore Lab's handling of the toxic metal beryllium have prompted two investigations. A team of outside experts audited beryllium work at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory last month, and federal regulators are set to follow up with their own review in September. Some of the incidents involved workers being unknowingly exposed to beryllium dust, which if inhaled can lead to beryllium sensitivity and chronic beryllium disease, an incurable and potentially fatal lung condition. In one of the incidents, the lab failed for five months to notify 178 contract workers who were exposed to the metal during a four-year seismic retrofit of a machine shop that ended in December 2006. Even a few weeks before the machine shop incident came to light, the rate of positive tests for beryllium sensitivity among lab workers was higher than in the past, which prompted the U.S. Department of Energy to direct the lab to find the reasons for this increase. Since then, the lab has been testing all buildings with possible beryllium contamination using the wet swipe method. To date, 13,000 samples have been taken from 61 buildings with about 70 more to go, according to a lab spokesperson. Some buildings have had elevated levels of beryllium, but only where the contamination was expected and protective measures were already being used. The testing is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/bayandstate/ci_9799196

7. *July 5, Wilkes Barre Times-Leader* – (Pennsylvania) **Nuke waste in holding pattern.** The Barnwell, South Carolina, disposal facility closed its doors to Pennsylvania and 36 other states on July 1, meaning the waste producers will have to hold onto that waste until a new site is found. That process will take years, and while officials stress a timely solution is necessary, producers are prepared. "What we've seen is the vast majority of people who would have this waste have been anticipating this, and many of them have considerable on-site storage," said a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) spokesman. "It's going to become a problem if a solution is not found... We expect that other states are going to be in the same boat and are going to press for a resolution." As July 1 approached, DEP surveyed its nuclear licensees regarding their storage plans. The response was that facilities have storage space, an average of 20 years worth, he said. Local medical facilities also do not expect problems. Wilkes-Barre General Hospital uses a radioactive element called technetium as a tracer for imaging, but the element has a very short half-life, so the hospital needs to store it for just 61 hours before it is decayed enough to be disposed of like other medical waste. The DEP spokesman did not know of any current plans for a facility in Pennsylvania, but he noted that "in some ways, we're unique because we've had a nuclear accident," so the state has learned from its mistakes and implemented a "vigorous" regulatory infrastructure, unlike some other states.

Source: http://www.timesleader.com/news/Nuke_waste_in_holding_pattern_07-05-2008.html

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *July 5, Military and Aerospace Electronics* – (National) **Boeing GPS IIF Satellite completes environmental tests.** Engineers at Boeing Integrated Defense Systems completed environmental tests of the first of 12 Global Positioning System (GPS) IIF satellites. The tests confirm the mechanical integrity of the spacecraft. The program is on track to deliver the first satellite to the U.S. Air Force this year, company officials say. The GPS IIF team completed a series of acoustic tests that replicate the noise levels expected during the spacecraft's launch into orbit. Officials of the Air Force, the Aerospace Corp., and experts at Boeing's satellite factory in El Segundo, California, supervised the tests. "Completion of these tests represents a key milestone in the test schedule for the first space vehicle that will provide modernized global positioning capability for military and civilian users," says the vice president and general manager of Boeing Space & Intelligence Systems. Boeing officials also recently completed a mechanical solar array deployment test for the GPS IIF program and delivered upgraded software for the control segment that will support the first and subsequent GPS IIF launches.

Source:

http://mae.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=ONEWS&PUBLICATION_ID=32&ARTICLE_ID=333548&C=ONEWS&dcmp=rss

9. *July 3, National Naval Medical Center* – (Maryland) **New Walter Reed National Military Medical Center construction underway.** The future of military medicine began a new era July 3 in Bethesda, as the U.S. president helped break ground for construction of the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The new medical center comes as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process to create an integrated state-of-the-art medical facility for military members. Both the National Naval Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center will combine to treat and care for service members and their families. The hospital will provide services for a variety of needs from routine medical appointments to highly unique specialties. The facility will also serve as the military's premier facility for treating service members wounded in the Global War on Terrorism.

Source: http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=38255

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *July 5, Associated Press* – (National) **9 convicted in Austria fraud case.** Nine people were convicted Friday of criminal charges in a major Austrian bank fraud case linked to the 2005 collapse of New York-based commodities brokerage Refco Inc. A Vienna Federal Court Judge found the defendants responsible for 1.4 billion Euros (US\$1.9 billion) in losses at Bank fuer Arbeit und Wirtschaft AG (BAWAG), Austria's No. 4 bank. The defendants include two former BAWAG executives and a U.S.-based investment banker. BAWAG loaned former Refco chief executive officer several hundred million dollars just before the brokerage filed for bankruptcy protection in

October 2005. He was sentenced to 16 years in prison Thursday in the U.S. by a judge who denounced what he called the “staggeringly arrogant” greed of the white-collar criminals implicated in the case. Refco was one of the world’s largest commodities brokerages, and prosecutors said BAWAG played a pivotal role in its collapse.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g7Sy31XREOoLiZ3IBpXsxlVSpfzgD91NJ0GO0>

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Transportation Sector

11. *July 7, CNN* – (Florida) **Jet nose cone caves in mid-flight.** Northwest Airlines is investigating why the nose cone on one of its planes caved in on a flight Sunday from Detroit, Michigan, to Tampa, Florida, a spokeswoman said Sunday. The Northwest Flight carrying 182 passengers landed safely in Tampa, Florida, at 2:30 p.m. as scheduled, a spokeswoman said. The damage to the plane occurred during the flight, but did not affect the flight’s landing in Tampa, Florida, said the official. She called the damage a “minor maintenance issue” and a “very rare occurrence.”
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/07/06/nose.cone/index.html>

12. *July 6, USA Today* – (Georgia) **Airport check-in: Atlanta’s gun notice; new Northwest carrier.** Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta is reminding the public of a rule: No guns are allowed at the airport unless they are locked in a hard case and packed in checked luggage. The airport is reiterating the statement because some may be confused by a new state law that expands the rights of Georgia gun owners. House Bill 89, which went into effect Tuesday, allows Georgia residents with firearm licenses to bring concealed weapons onto public transportation, in state parks and in restaurants that earn at least half their revenue from food. In a press conference last week, the airport’s general manager said the new law does not change the no-guns policy at the airport.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-07-06-atlanta-gun-reminder-new-airline-in-northwest_N.htm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *July 7, Zanesville Times Recorder* – (Ohio) **Cambridge Post Office subject of bomb scare.** The Cambridge Post Office was the subject of a bomb threat that turned out to be a hoax Sunday morning. According to the Cambridge Police Department, a local man entered the post office at 10:58 a.m. on July 6, carrying a clear plastic shopping bag with a shoe box in it. After waiting for several customers to leave, the man placed a 911 call on his cell phone. He stated that the shoe box contained a bomb and he wanted to speak with FBI agents. He identified himself as an Air Force veteran upset with the U.S. president and the current war in the Middle East. He said he wanted to make a statement against the war and would blow up the building if necessary to do so. The man was eventually convinced to surrender based on the promise of mental health treatment, which he requested. At that time, he opened the box to reveal that it contained only a

brick. The man went into police custody without further incident. The post office was swept by a bomb detection dog and cleared before being released back to the postmaster. The suspect's home was also searched by police and did not contain any evidence of bomb making or terrorist activities. He has no prior criminal record, but charges for inducing a panic will be filed after his medical and mental health treatments.

Source:

<http://zanesvilletimesrecorder.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080707/NEWS01/807070325/1002>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

14. *July 6, Associated Press* – (Texas) **San Antonio ammonia leak forces evacuation.**

Twenty workers evacuated from a San Antonio produce terminal after ammonia leaked from a refrigeration machine. A San Antonio Fire Department chaplain said everyone escaped safely Sunday night. The evacuation was limited to the produce terminal although an area surrounding the building on the south side was closed for a time. The workers who were evacuated were loading vegetables at the time. One worker told the San Antonio Express-News that the workers did not evacuate until about an hour after first smelling the ammonia.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/ap/tx/5874739.html>

15. *July 4, Bloomberg* – (National) **Antibiotics in livestock, then you?** Inspectors found a common antibiotic has been misused in animals through practices such as injections into chicken eggs and ordered farmers to stop the unapproved treatments because of the risk to humans. The cephalosporins were given in unapproved doses to chickens, beef, dairy cows, and pigs, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said. In chickens, cephalosporins are supposed to be given to day-old chicks for respiratory illnesses. Doctors use cephalosporins on humans to treat skin infections, stomach infections, and pneumonia. Widespread treatment of animals with the same drugs increases the risk that food-borne bacteria, among them salmonella and E. coli, will develop resistance. "If these drug-resistant bacterial strains infect humans, it is likely that cephalosporins will no longer be effective for treating disease in those people," the FDA said. Under FDA rules, veterinarians can prescribe drugs to animals for uses not approved unless the agency determines a risk to public health.

Source: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/features/food/orl-animals0408jul04,0,6774479.story>

16. *July 5, MarketWatch* – (National) **Jalapenos may be salmonella culprit.** Jalapeno peppers are a new focus of the investigation into the salmonella outbreak that has sickened hundreds of people in at least 40 states, according to media reports. Government health investigators had initially focused on some types of fresh tomatoes, which have been removed from menus across the country, but are turning toward jalapenos as sicknesses continue. Salsa ingredients cilantro and Serrano peppers are also under scrutiny, according to reports. As of Friday evening, 943 persons infected with salmonella Saintpaul with the same genetic fingerprint have been identified in 40 states,

the District of Columbia, and Canada, according to Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Illnesses are believed to have begun in early April. The Food and Drug Administration recently issued an update on a food-protection plan, and said it is working to identify best practices for traceability, and will hire at least another 130 employees to conduct food field exams, inspections, and sample collections.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/jalapenos-may-salmonella-culprit-reports/story.aspx?guid=D1A264A6-0D0F-471C-BF33-CC29D38962F3&dist=SecMostMailed>

17. *July 4, Modesto Bee* – (California) **Stanislaus fair requires TB testing for heifers.** The Stanislaus County Fair is requiring bovine tuberculosis (TB) tests for dairy replacement heifers being shown and sold at this year's event. The fair board took the action Tuesday in response to the detection of TB in three dairy herds in Fresno County by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The disease does not affect human health, but it could do major damage to the dairy industry if not controlled. Although the tests are mandatory only for replacement heifers – cows just starting their milk production – officials urge them for all dairy cattle more than six months old.

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/business/story/350637.html>

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Water Sector

18. *July 6, Colorado Springs Gazette* – (Colorado) **Proposed water pipeline gets negative feedback.** Colorado Springs' proposed \$1 billion Southern Delivery System came under sharp criticism in the nearly 400 comments submitted to a federal agency preparing an environmental report on the water pipeline project. Among them are concerns about the degradation of Fountain Creek, destruction of archaeological artifacts, energy use and water quality in the Arkansas River downstream. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recently released written comments after conducting six public meetings and extending the comment period for 45 days through June on the project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The bureau is involved because Colorado Springs Utilities proposes to pump water it already owns from Pueblo Reservoir, a federal facility. Colorado Springs officials hope the comments do not delay the project or trigger major changes in the bureau's findings, which identified the city's idea of pumping water from Pueblo Reservoir to northeast Colorado Springs as the preferred option.

Source: <http://www.kpvi.com/Global/story.asp?S=8625153>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

19. *July 7, MedGuru* – (Pennsylvania) **Lyme disease on rise.** The director of internal medicine for Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's Pinnacle Health system says that he alone has looked at the 24 cases of Lyme disease in the current year and as many as one third of those people live in the downtown Harrisburg or "don't have an obvious way to have been exposed to ticks." While the County Public Health Departments in Cayuga,

Oswego, Cortland, and Madison have no available figures for the disease for the present year but the state health officials admitted that the sesame seed sized deer ticks that carry the disease are thriving in Central New York. Fourteen cases have been confirmed with nine in the Fayetteville-Manlius area. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) most recent data for year 2006, nearly 3, 242 cases of Lyme disease was reported by Pennsylvania doctors, second highest among states with New York at the first place, with 4, 460 cases in the same year. If left untreated, Lyme disease can eventually lead to more serious symptoms such as insomnia, hearing loss, arthritis, heart disease, and paralysis.

Source: http://www.themedguru.com/articles/lyme_disease_on_rise-8615684.html

20. *July 7, WEWS 5 Cleveland* – (Ohio) **Cuyahoga County warns about West Nile virus.** Ohio health officials are warning the public as mosquitoes have already tested positive for the West Nile virus this summer in Cuyahoga County. Warm temperatures and rainfall have created perfect conditions for more of the disease-bearing mosquitoes this year.

Source: <http://www.newsnet5.com/station/16781216/detail.html>

21. *July 7, Los Angeles Times* – (International) **Scientists warn against closing Navy lab.** Threats to shut down a U.S. Navy medical research lab here might undermine the hunt for mutating viruses that could set off the next global flu pandemic, Western scientists warn. Indonesia suspended negotiations with the U.S. over the fate of Naval Medical Research Unit No. 2 last month after senior politicians said it didn't benefit Indonesia and could be a cover for spying. The U.S. Embassy denied the facility is used to gather intelligence, and said most of the lab's staff are Indonesians helping with research carried out in cooperation with local health officials. The biomedical research lab opened in Jakarta in 1970 and studies tropical diseases including malaria, dengue fever, and avian flu, according to an embassy fact sheet. U.S. officials say privately that the dispute is part of a Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2008/07/07/scientists_warn_against_closing_navy_lab/

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Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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Emergency Services Sector

22. *July 6, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **DC: Evacuation plan practice met goals.** Washington, D.C. transportation officials say they met their goal in tests of the city's emergency evacuation plans. A D.C. Transportation Department spokeswoman says the city moved as many as 400,000 people from downtown in 90 minutes after the Fourth of July fireworks. She says as officials learned of delays they adjusted timing on

traffic lights to enhance the flow of vehicles and pedestrians leaving the National Mall. Some lights could be extended up to four minutes. Authorities also used electronic message boards on the routes to update drivers. This is the fourth year the city has conducted the drill on Independence Day. A final report on the test is due in a few weeks. The information will be used to improve evacuation plans.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxdc.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=6922075&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

23. *July 5, Marin Independent Journal* – (California) **Mobile ERs a model for emergency services.** Firefighters trained as paramedics increasingly find themselves responding to far more medical cases than any other call for service. The phenomenon is part of a nationwide trend in which the fire service has evolved into a kind of mobile emergency room. In Marin, California, where one out of every three residents will be 65 or older by 2030, medical emergencies already account for most fire calls. Although call volume has remained steady over the years due to a stable population, authorities expect that to change as the population ages and the uninsured continue to seek treatment in hospitals. Also expected to affect the system is Marin's shortage of primary-care physicians - a factor expected to tax pre-hospital care as paramedics and hospital staff work on more complicated cases. Marin's fire department-based emergency medical services (EMS) provide a continuum of care, treating the patient at the scene and transporting them to the hospital. Such a system is considered a model, fire officials said. Nationally, the uptick in call volume is already being felt, said the president of the National Association of State EMS Officials based in Falls Church, Virginia. As a result, recruiting and retaining paramedics is a challenge, he said.

Source: http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_9799061

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Information Technology

24. *July 7, Associated Press* – (International) **Internet addressing agency loses its addresses.** The nonprofit agency in charge of the Internet's addresses recently lost track of its own address. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) said it happened when an Internet registration company it oversees got fooled into transferring the domain names to someone else. The attack was quickly noticed, and ICANN's domain names were restored within 20 minutes. However, because many Internet directories retain information for a day or two, visitors could have been redirected to an unauthorized site for longer. ICANN said Thursday that new, unspecified security measures should prevent such attacks in the future. The organization also said it was reviewing other security procedures. The domain names hijacked were ICANN.com and IANA.com — for the ICANN subdivision known as the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA). Visitors to those addresses are normally redirected automatically to the organization's main sites at ICANN.org and IANA.org, neither of which was affected by the attack.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25543624/>

25. *July 5, InfoWorld* – (International) **The dangers of cloud computing.** The idea of cloud computing – designed around an architecture whose natural state is a shared pool outside the enterprise – has gained momentum in recent months as a way to reduce cost and improve IT flexibility. But the use of cloud computing also carries with it security risks, including perils related to compliance, availability, and data integrity. Yet many companies do not think through those risks upfront. For example, having proper failover technology in place is a component of securing the cloud that is often overlooked, notes the principal of Enterprise Applications Consulting. Yet these same companies make sure they have failover for established services, like electricity. “If you look around, go to any major facility, what is sitting in a box outside is an alternative power supply. They don’t rely on just the grid,” he says, arguing that cloud computing should be no different. In some cases, the risk is too great to rely on the cloud. And where the decision is made to put some services and applications in the cloud, the business must ask how that risk should be managed. Cloud computing also does not have the same kind of security standardization that applies to normal IT infrastructures, making it more vulnerable.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/07/07/28NF-cloud-computing-security_1.html?source=rss&url=http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/07/07/28NF-cloud-computing-security_1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

26. *July 5, ComputerWorld* – (International) **Storm botnet stages Fourth of July attacks.** As predicted, hackers tried to trick users into downloading the Storm bot on Friday by unleashing a flood of Independence Day spam bearing links to malicious sites, several security companies reported. The spam campaign, anticipated earlier in the week by MX Logic Inc., used messages with subject headings ranging from “Amazing firework 2008” and “Celebrating Fourth of July” to “Light up the sky” and “Spectacular fireworks show,” said U.K.-based Sophos PLC in an alert posted to the Web on Friday. Links in the spam led to hacker-controlled sites that trumpeted a video clip worth downloading. “Colorful Independence Day events have already started throughout the country,” the malicious sites claimed. “The largest firework happens on the last weekday before the Fourth of July. Unprecedented sum of money was spent on this fabulous show. If you want to see the best Independence Day firework, just click on the video and run it.” The file pitched to users was an executable – “fireworks.exe.” Users who agreed to the download did not receive a video, but instead infected their Windows-running PCs with the Storm Trojan horse, which hijacked the system and added it to the

existing collection of compromised computers making up the Storm botnet.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9106918&source=rss_topic17

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

27. *July 7, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Bomb threat shuts Bandelier Monument.** A bomb threat that caused the evacuation of Bandelier National Monument on one of the busiest days of the year appears to have been a hoax, authorities said Saturday. A man called the Bandelier Visitor Center on Friday morning and said that a bomb was placed in Frijoles Canyon. He also told the park employee he was watching from five miles away, authorities said. No bomb was found, but many families were turned away at the gate throughout the day due to the threat and resulting search. A bomb-sniffing dog, brought in by New Mexico State Police, also swept the canyon for several hours. The Bandelier superintendent said the bomb squad – comprised of explosives experts from Los Alamos police and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Hazardous Material departments, LANL security, Los Alamos Fire Department personnel, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation – descended on the park. He said “about 100 people were evacuated” along with 25 people from nearby residences. In addition, hikers were pulled in from area trails and asked to leave the park. The park remained closed for 24 hours, and officials said the search for the man who called in the bomb threat continued.

Source: http://www.elpasotimes.com/news/ci_9804683

28. *July 5, Gannett News Service* – (National) **Environmentalists gird for battle with Bush over rule changes.** Environmentalists are bracing for a final battle with the Bush administration over its efforts to weaken clean water, air, and toxic waste regulations before a new president moves into the White House. With only about six months left in office, the administration is proposing rule changes that would repeal a 25-year ban on loaded guns in national parks, ease air pollution regulations on power plants near the parks, exempt factory farms from key provisions of the Clean Water and Clean Air acts, allow mountaintop mining near streams, and make it easier to dump hazardous waste into the recycling system. But critics of environmental regulation say that the proposed rule changes are modest at best. National park advocates fear Bush’s most controversial changes could leave America’s most scenic places smoggier and more dangerous for vacationing families. A rule expected to be finalized in October would change the way air pollution is measured in national parks, which are supposed to have the cleanest air in the nation and the strongest safeguards against pollution under the Clean Air Act. The law designates 158 national parks, wilderness areas, and wildlife refuges as “class one

areas” that must receive the greatest amount of protection possible. The change would make it easier for utility companies to build highly polluting coal-fired power plants near national parks, resulting in smoggy haze that obscures visitors’ views and is unhealthy to breathe, said the director of clean air and climate programs for the National Parks Conservation Association. It also would allow existing plants to spew more pollution into the air without violating clean air regulations.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/environment/2008-07-05-bush-environment_N.htm

29. *July 4, CNN* – (District of Columbia) **National Mall in monumental disrepair, activists say.** Trash piles up quickly on the National Mall, which the National Park Service said has 25 million visitors a year. This gathering place known as America’s “front yard” stretches from the Capitol to the Potomac River and is home to the Jefferson and Lincoln memorials and Washington Monument, but it is starting to look like “an old rundown, worn-out mall that looks like it was abandoned 30 years ago,” says a representative of the National Coalition to Save Our Mall. People are part of the problem. The National Mall has more visitors each year than Yosemite, Yellowstone, and the Grand Canyon parks combined, according to the National Park Service. The mall has an annual budget of about \$31 million. But its backlogged maintenance needs are estimated at more than eight times that amount – \$258 million. Among the most expensive projects include reinforcing a sinking seawall around the Jefferson Memorial and rehabilitating the World War I Memorial. Restrooms, parking, and transportation are all desperately needed, along with places to eat, activists said.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/07/04/national.mall/index.html?eref=rss_us

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Dams Sector

30. *July 6, Scripps Howard News Service and Kitsap Sun* – (Washington, National) **Recent floods raise ongoing concerns about levee safety.** Even where levees are well-maintained, such as in controlled flood zones, officials say it is becoming more likely that floods will spill over the tops of the protective berms. Causes include more intense storms, changes in land use and a tendency to avoid river dredging for environmental reasons. Despite increased attention on levees and dikes, a nationwide review by the Scripps Howard News Service suggests that proposed actions cannot overcome decades of neglect. Among the findings: No one at any level of government knows where all the levees are, much less their condition. Some say there could be 20,000 to 30,000 levees scattered across the country; Maintenance of levees has fallen years behind, and the total estimated repair costs run into billions of dollars; Washington is among the majority of states that have no agency responsible for levee safety. Dikes along the Skokomish River delta in Mason County have been breached intentionally to allow natural restoration of the estuary. But in upland areas of the Skokomish, the riverbed has been filling in with sediment for many years and can no longer contain the water from even moderate storms. Old dikes on the Skokomish are in varying states of repair. In many communities across the country, levees were built at a lower height because they were only protecting farmland. Then people began moving in, often paying little attention to

the condition of the substandard levees that were their only protection from floodwaters. Congress, in light of levee failures in New Orleans in 2005 and the potential for similar catastrophes in many parts of the country, recently ordered the Corps to conduct a first-ever national levee inventory.

Source: <http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2008/jul/06/floods-raise-ongoing-concerns-about-levee-safety/>

31. *July 6, Associated Press* – (Missouri) **Last of flood-closed Mississippi locks reopen.**

The last of the Mississippi River navigational locks that were closed to barges because of flooding are back in business. An Army Corps of Engineers official says locks in Clarksville and Winfield have reopened. She says commercial traffic at the St. Louis port is limited to the daytime. Flooding on the Mississippi forced the corps to close the locks last month. The locks use huge electric motors to open and close gates and valves. They raise and lower barges as they make their way up and down the river. The corps removes the motors during floods to protect them.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hw95ek5Sllmi4SoQ_N4HJvwHE0ZAD91NUJ5G0

32. *July 6, WWL 4 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Court ruling clears way for tree removal along 17th Street Canal.** A ruling by an Orleans Parish Civil District Court judge clears the way for the Army Corps of Engineers to remove fences and trees along the 17th Street Canal, despite legal challenges by people who live in the neighborhood. The Corps is seeking to take down fences and trees that are deemed to be too close to the 17th Street Canal. A group of residents who live along the 17th Street Canal were seeking to halt the Army Corps of Engineers from taking some of their land and removing fences and trees in what the Corps contends are essential moves to improve safety during future storms. The Corps contends it has the right and duty to make sure the levees remain sturdy and that means taking land and removing items if they feel it's necessary. It plans to remove trees, fences and other property resting between the levee and the six feet mark past the levee toe – the area where the land begins to flatten out. In addition, people whose fences are taken down will have to pay out of their own pocket to have them put back up, closer to their homes. The lone exception is a home with a pool. In that case the Corps will erect a temporary fence for safety.

Source: <http://www.wwltv.com/local/stories/wwl070608cblevees.2d245937.html>

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